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1. In a system including a client and a server system, the server system including a front end server and one or more back end servers, each back end server having private folders and public folders, wherein a client request is received at the front end server, a method for selecting a particular back end server to service the client request, the method comprising the acts of:

accessing a directory for configuration information based on a Uniform Resource Identifier in the client request by the front end server; and

selecting the particular back end server to service the client request by the front end server, wherein the particular back end server is one of:

a first back end server identified from the configuration information if the client request is for a private folder, wherein the first back end server stores the private folder of the client;

a second back end server identified from the configuration information if the client request is for a home public folder, wherein the second back end server identified from the configuration information stores the home public folder associated with the private folder of the client; and

a third back end server selected with a selection module if the client request is for an application public folder, wherein the selection module identifies the third back end server for each client request of a particular user.

2. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the act of directing the client request to the particular back end server.

1 3. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the act of servicing the
2 client request with the particular back end server.

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4 4. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the configuration information
5 associates a username with the private folder, and wherein the username is identified from
6 one of the URI of the client request or authentication information of a user.

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8 5. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the configuration information
9 associates the home public folder with the private folder.

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11 6. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the selection module further
12 comprises a hash function, wherein a list of the one or more back end servers is hashed
13 with a security token of a user to select the particular back end server.

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15 7. A method as defined in claim 6, wherein one or more of the back end
16 servers included in the list of the one or more back end servers is marked as unavailable,
17 wherein the hash function does not exclude a back end servers that is marked as
18 unavailable unless the particular back end server selected by the hash function is marked as
19 unavailable.

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21 8. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the back end servers include
22 ghosted folders.

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9. A method as defined in claim 8, further comprising the act or returning a subset of servers to the front end server if the particular back end server ghosts a content requested in the client request.

10. A method as defined in claim 9, wherein the selection module selects a new back end server from the subset of servers to service the client request.

11. A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the one or more back end servers included in the subset of servers actually store the content requested in the client request.

12. A method as defined in claim 10, further comprising the act of directing the client request to the new back end server.

^{13.}
~~14.~~ A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the first back end server is the same as the second back end server.

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~~15.~~ A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the acts recited in claim 1.

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In a system including a client and a server system including a front end server and one or more back end servers, a method for directing a client request to a particular back end server, the particular back end server included in the one or more back end servers, the method comprising the acts of:

identifying the particular back end server from a directory if the client request is for a private folder, wherein only the particular back end server stores the private folder of the client;

identifying the particular back end server from the directory if the client request is for a home public folder, wherein only the particular back end server stores the home public folder of the client;

identifying the particular back end server from a selection module if the particular back end server cannot be identified from the directory, wherein the selection module identifies the same particular back end server for each client request of a particular user; and

directing the client request to the particular back end server.

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A method as defined in claim ~~16~~, wherein the directory associates a URI of the client request with the private folder, associates the private folder with the home public folder, and associates each of the one or more back end servers that have a replica of the home public folder.

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A method as defined in claim ~~16~~, wherein the act of identifying the particular back end server from a directory if the client request is for a private folder further comprises the act of examining the URI to determine a username.

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A method as defined in claim ~~16~~¹⁵, wherein the act of identifying the particular back end server from the directory if the client request is for a home public folder further comprises the act of identifying a string in the directory to determine that the client request is for a home public folder.

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A method as defined in claim ~~19~~¹⁸, wherein the string is "public folder."

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A method as defined in claim ~~16~~¹⁵, wherein the selection module performs a hash function using a list of the one or more back end servers and a security token of a user to select the particular back end server.

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In a system including a client and a server system including a front end server and one or more back end servers, a method for directing a client request for content in an application public folder to a particular back end server, the method comprising the acts of:

identifying a security token of a user associated with the client request;

identifying a list of back end servers from a directory, wherein each back end server in the list of back end servers has a replica of the application public folder;

selecting the particular back end server from the list using a selection module, wherein the selection module hashes the security token of the user and the list of back end servers; and

directing the client request to the particular back end server selected by the selection module.

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A method as defined in claim ~~22~~, wherein the particular back end server selected by the selection module ghosts the content requested in the client request.

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A method as defined in claim ~~23~~, further comprising the acts of:

the particular back end server sending a subset list of back end servers to the front end server, wherein the subset list includes each of the one or more back end servers that actually stores the content;

selecting a new back end server from the subset list with the selection module; and

directing the client request to the new back end server.

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A method as defined in claim ²¹~~22~~, wherein the particular back end server is

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unavailable.

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A method as defined in claim ²⁴~~25~~, further comprising the acts of:

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marking the particular server as unavailable in the list of back end servers;

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selecting a new particular server from the list of back end servers with the

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selection module, wherein the unavailable back end server is not excluded from the

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list of back end servers unless the unavailable back end server is selected by the

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selection module; and

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directing the client request to the new particular server.

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A method as defined in claim ²¹~~22~~, wherein at least one of the back end

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servers included in the list of back end servers is marked as unavailable and wherein the

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act of selecting the particular back end server comprises the act of keeping the marked

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back end servers in the list of back end servers when the selection module selects the

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particular back end server.

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A computer readable medium containing computer executable instructions

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for executing the acts recited in claim ²¹~~22~~.

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1 In a system including a client and a server system, the server system
2 including a front end server and one or more back end servers, a computer program
3 product for implementing a method for directing a client request to a particular back end
4 server, the computer program product comprising:

5 a computer-readable medium carrying executable instructions for
6 performing the method, wherein the method includes the acts of:

7 identifying the particular back end server from a directory if the
8 client request is for a private folder, wherein only one of the one or more
9 back end servers stores the private folder of the client;

10 identifying the particular back end server from the directory if the
11 client request is for a home public folder, wherein only one of the one or
12 more back end servers stores the home public folder of the client;

13 identifying the particular back end server from a selection module if
14 the particular back end server cannot be identified from the directory,
15 wherein the selection module identifies the same particular back end server
16 for each client request of a particular user; and

17 directing the client request to the particular back end server.

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19 A computer program product as defined in claim 29, wherein the directory
20 associates a URI of the client request with the private folder, associates the private folder
21 with the home public folder, and associates each of the one or more back end servers that
22 have a replica of the home public folder.

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1 A computer program product as defined in claim 29, wherein the act of
2 identifying the particular back end server from a directory if the client request is for a
3 private folder further comprises the act of examining the URI to determine a username.

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5 A computer program product as defined in claim 29, wherein the act of
6 identifying the particular back end server from the directory if the client request is for a
7 home public folder further comprises the act of identifying a string in the directory to
8 determine that the client request is for a home public folder.

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10 A computer program product as defined in claim 29, wherein the string is
11 "public folder."

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13 A computer program product as defined in claim 29, wherein the selection
14 module performs a hash function using a list of the one or more back end servers and a
15 security token of a user to select the particular back end server.